

IN AN EMERGENCY call 911

Office for Women Family Helpline

Weekdays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.(914) 995-5972
In Spanish, White Plains(914) 995-6581
In Spanish, Yonkers(914) 231-2882
After hours and weekends(914) 995-2099

Family Justice Center

Weekdays 9 a.m. to 4:30p.m.(914) 995-3100

Family Court Assistance

Family Court Domestic Violence Legal Programs:

White Plains Family Court(914) 995-7400
Yonkers Family Court(914) 231-2886

Department of Probation(914) 995-4762

VAS Family Abuse Court Services

Yonkers Family Court(914) 231-2883

Immigration Services

Empire Justice Center(914) 422-4329

My Sisters' Place(914) 683-1333

Criminal Court Assistance

District Attorney's Office(914) 995-3300

Family and Criminal Court Assistance

Family Justice Center(914) 995-3100

Victims Assistance Services:

Main Number(914) 345-3113

Mount Vernon(914) 665-2539

Peekskill(914) 739-8046

White Plains(914) 995-6058

Yonkers(914) 965-0217

If you are a **Criminal Defendant** because you were abused and fought back, you can receive help from:

Legal Aid Society(914) 286-3400

For domestic & sexual violence services, victims throughout New York and the United States call:

NYS Domestic & Sexual Violence Hotline

(800) 942-6906

National Domestic Violence Hotline (800) 779-7233

Westchester
gov.com

George Latimer, County Executive
Robin Schlaff, Director
Office for Women



Victims' rights

What the courts may do for you

Things to consider

Understanding the Courts

**STOP
DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE**

THE POLICE CAN

- Help you get to a safe place away from the violence.
- Help you get medical attention for injuries you and/or your children may have.
- Help you get belongings from home for you and your children.
- Fill out a Domestic Incident Report (DIR).

THE COURTS MAY HELP YOU

Obtain an **Order of Protection** for you, your children and/or pets from either Family Court, Criminal Court, or the Integrated Domestic Violence Court.

You can choose **Family Court** if the person who harmed or threatened you is someone you married or divorced; is related to you by blood; is the parent of your child; or is someone you are/were in an intimate relationship with.

The purpose of Family Court is to end the violence. Family Court also deals with custody, visitation and child support.

You may qualify for **Criminal Court** no matter what the relationship is between you and the abuser. In order to receive an order of protection in criminal court, there must be an arrest. The purpose of Criminal Court is to punish the abuser. If found guilty of an offense, the abuser will have a criminal record and other penalties may also be imposed.

In Criminal Court you may request that the Court order restitution from your abuser (up to \$10,000) and all medical and legal fees be covered by your abuser.

You can ask the Court to send the abuser to attend batterers' education classes.

If you are eligible to go to Family Court you may be able to proceed in both Family and Criminal Court at the same time.

The purpose of the **Integrated Domestic Violence Court (IDV Court)** is to consolidate all Criminal, Supreme, and Family Court matters in domestic violence cases so one judge will have knowledge of all your cases and effectively monitor the perpetrator.

If your abuser is charged with a felony anywhere in Westchester County or a misdemeanor in White Plains, New Rochelle, Town of Greenburgh, Town of Rye or the Village of Port Chester; and there is a related Family Court and/or matrimonial matter, the cases may be transferred to White Plains IDV Court.

There is an IDV Court in Yonkers for misdemeanor domestic violence cases.

IN COURT YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO

Be accompanied into court by a lawyer, relative, friend, and/or advocate.

Lawyers are available through the Family Court Legal Program, Legal Services of the Hudson Valley, My Sisters' Place or the Family Court can appoint you a lawyer if you are eligible. You do not need a lawyer in Criminal Court unless you are charged with a crime.

In the Westchester County Court Complex, counselors, lawyers, advocates, clergy and support services are available for victims of domestic & dating violence, sexual assault & stalking through the Westchester County Family Justice Center.

Mediation is not appropriate in domestic violence cases because this requires a victim to meet face-to-face with their abuser.

THINGS TO CONSIDER

When requesting an order of protection in any of the above mentioned courts:

- You can ask the court to order your abuser to surrender all weapons and have any license to carry revoked.
- Do you want the person who is abusive removed from your home?
- Or do you want the person to comply with the conditions of the order of protection while remaining in your home?
- Do you want the person to stay away from your home, workplace, school and family?
- Do you want your children and/or pets included in the order of protection?
- Do you want the person not to contact you, by phone calls, letters or messages through other people, e-mails or other electronic methods?

A **Temporary Order of Protection (TOP)** is issued by the court. Frequently, a TOP is followed by a **Final (permanent) Order of Protection (POP)** which is issued by the judge. A POP can range from six months to eight years. It takes more than one court appearance to secure a permanent order of protection.

**An Order of Protection
cannot guarantee your safety.**

To obtain copies of this brochure, call 914-995-5972 or download at: www.westchestergov.com/women